

Wright, Robert Ramsay

Dec 1914, April - May 1915

R. Ramsay Wright

See also correspondence

in "Belgian Relief Fund" file 1914-15



December 18th, 1914

Professor R. Ramsay Wright,  
Oxford, England.

My dear Professor Ramsay Wright:

This is a business communication. Both Dr. Vogt and Dr. Harr have spoken to me about the advisability of getting Sir Walter Farratt to act as examiner for the Mus. Doc. degree. You suggested I think, that the thesis should be sent to the Professor of Music wither in Oxford or Cambridge. The thesis was sent to Sir Walter many months ago, but he has so far not reported. We have thought that possibly this was due to his being unable to give a satisfactory report without knowing the other work of the candidate. I think that if he were willing to do the work for us our Senate would be very glad to appoint him as examiner. We should realise that it would be a great favour he would be doing us by setting a standard for our highest degree in music. I wonder whether you would make it convenient to call upon Sir Walter and discuss the situation with him.

We have been having great trouble because of the presence of Germans on our staff. It began by a visit paid by Mueller to Hagarty in September, when Mueller blamed Hagarty for stirring up the school by his patriotic address and not qualifying it to prevent an attack on his boys. Then some of our staff injudiciously went to the defence of Mueller in the newspapers. Ever since there has been a good deal of slumbering discontent over the fact the Mueller and others are teaching in the University. Benzinger, who has succeeded McCurdy in Orientals, a very distinguished scholar, has had to bear the brunt, because he has only been



with us three years and has a son serving in the German army. But these men were doing their work and are harmless, and I reported to the Board against their dismissal. The majority wanted to dismiss them, and because the will of the majority was not carried out Sir Edmund Osler has unfortunately resigned. The compromise, against which I dissented, was carried granting them leave of absence with full pay until the end of the present academic year. I am trying to effect an exchange for Penzinger in some American University or College, but I have been unsuccessful so far, though Harvard, Yale and Columbia are all very sympathetic with my endeavours. It is a worrying situation, but I hope we shall by and by come through it without discredit to the University. Can you give me any information as to what exactly was done in Oxford? We have been hearing all sorts of things about what the English Universities have done.

To-day the term closed, but there is still plenty to do. I have recently been in the West on a Commission dealing with the request of Calgary College for degree conferring powers. We have recommended against it and I suppose that Calgary will not be satisfied.

I hope that Mrs. Wright and yourself have been well and that you will enjoy in so far as the present condition of affairs will allow you to the Christmas season. We have had over 1800 students drilling for the last two months. Lang is Colonel in charge. He is also doing work for the Militia authorities outside. With kind regards to Mrs. Wright,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



April 22nd, 1915

Professor R. Ramsay Wright,  
Headington Hill, Oxford.

My dear Wright:

The Ledoux have arrived and are I think going to fit in very well. We had a large number of the staff to meet them on Monday. Madame Ledoux is quite a charming French lady, and he seems to be a modest, sensible fellow, and both of them are thoroughly grateful for anything that has been done. It must be a relief to them to be in a land where they will not be subjected to war, though their friends are in great suffering. Madame Ledoux has not heard from hers since she came to England. The experience that these poor people have gone through is most trying, and if their friends have to go through it when the Germans are rolled back it will be agony upon agony. I must thank you for the pains you have been to in sending them out. It is all working out very well.

We are very sad to-day because of the news that has come of the death of Lieutenant Trumbull Warren, following so closely upon that of Captain Darling. Mrs. Warren was speaking not long ago to Mrs. Falconer in a very brave way. Poor woman, she seems to have had her own time of suffering. The Wavors and Vander Swissens now are full of anxiety constantly.

Everybody here is busy getting ready the Hospital for the front. It should leave in ten days, and is to consist of 40 members of the medical staff, 75 nurses, and about 200 rank and file, of whom there are about thirty students, I think. We are raising £30,000 for equipment, of which some £25,000 has been already received or promised. The ladies also are working very hard as well as institutions and churches throughout the city and province. It seems to have evoked a great deal of interest. People who cannot serve at the front are willing to work and sacrifice at home.

We have brought the examinations forward by three weeks, and they will be over the last of April. Probably there will be a concentration camp for twelve days beginning the 3rd of May, which will be attended by several hundreds of our O.T.C. men. Convocation is to be on May 21st. The Officers' Training Corps has been a great success. Perhaps you saw that the Duke had commended them at the time of their parade. According to our information there must be some 500 of our



undergraduates at the front or on active service. The examinations have been considerably reduced both in number and in the number of those writing. We have also been lenient in the matter of attendance.

At present we are on the estimates, and are drawing up our plans for a great reduction in the fees for next year. Bensley was in this morning. He will have trouble because Coventry has gone as a Lieutenant and Cooper has taken a Fellowship in Illinois. Both these positions it will be difficult for him to fill.

I am glad to hear that you are taking exercise in the Home Guard and are finding plenty to do. The cloud of war will hang lower over you than it does over us, though we are feeling it enough. I hope we shall never see another winter like the one that has just closed.

Our children are not well. They have been on their backs for eight or ten weeks, both of them with endocarditis. Rest is necessary, and we hope that they will make a good recovery in time. They are to have their tonsils removed this week. The Doctor thinks that this is a channel for infection. Fortunately Mrs. Falconer has been pretty well this winter notwithstanding the strain of the children and other work incident to the Hospital equipment, etc. Please give our kind regards to Mrs. Wright.

Yours sincerely,

President.



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**OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTING BELGIAN PROFESSORS.**

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MRS. W. G. MAX-MULLER,  
HON. SEC.

PROF. RAMSAY WRIGHT,  
HON. TREAS.

RUSKIN COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

May 21<sup>st</sup> 1915

My dear Falconer,

I take the opportunity of an interval between the calls of Belgian Professors (or their wives) to answer your letter — I spent a couple of hours on Tuesday & Fridays here and attended to the business matters of the Committee — I hope you are looking forward to a holiday — I am sure you both want it after such a trying winter — made doubly so by the children's illness, which I hope has now been satisfactorily got over —

We shall not get away till July, but my wife especially will want it then, for she has been very active as Chairman of a Committee in Headington which looks after the refugees there, and be-



RUSKIN COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

Mrs. W. G. MAX-MULLER,  
Hon. Secy.  
Pope's Library, Wright,  
108, Strand.

She works several days a week in  
Queen Mary's Guild — which is  
presided over by Lady Osler — and  
which is at present feverishly pre-  
paring waterproof cases for anti-gas  
respirators. She has just received  
news that her only niece's husband  
Allan Garner has been killed in action.  
He was an officer in the Lincolnshire  
Yeomanry —

During this term I volunteered —  
graciously of course — to take  
Leikieson's embryology course (He  
has gone as Captain to the Dardanelles)  
This involves 2 lectures a week  
with 2 hours laboratory work after  
the lecture — There are few students  
5 women & men!

A good many of our Volunteer Training  
Corps have been drafted off —  
the younger men of course —



OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTING BELGIAN PROFESSORS.

MRS. W. G. MAX-MULLER,  
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RUSKIN COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

Yesterday I saw two of them for the first time in khaki taking charge of a company of very young fellows — a new battalion in formation — These were Stainer and Hunt, the latter as Meyer said already accustomed to trench work in his excavations.

I hope with the change of Government that the country is going to be better organised for the war — so many are eager to be made use of —

I have been to see many Canadians in the Hospital here — one man from Darling & Pearson's office, with a badly wounded knee.

The Ledoux, I was glad to see, reached you safely — One of the Western American Universities may relieve



OXFORD  
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PROF. HAMBLY WRIGHT  
HON. 1915  
MR. W. G. MAX-MULLER  
HON. 1915

The Committee of another charge -  
It looks as if we might have our  
Belgians with us for a long time.  
We were sorry to hear about  
Wilfred Leaver being wounded,  
I am trying to find out where  
he is - Joyce Pluton came to  
see us the other day - looking  
very well.

Kind regards to all friends,

Yours sincerely  
R Ramsay Toulton